

Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 OMB-01 PM-03 DODE-00 RSR-01

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P 270332Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7580

INFO CINCPAC PRIORITY

S E C R E T MANILA 9785

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: MARCOS VIEWS ON POLITICAL OPPONENTS

1. IN DISCUSSING HIS POLITICAL POSITION DURING CONVERSATION AUGUST 26, PRESIDENT MARCOS TOLD ME THAT HE NOW CONSIDERS HIS OLD POLITICAL ENEMIES AS "IMPOTENT." HE FEELS THAT HIS REAL ENEMIES ARE THE COMMUNISTS, WHO ARE CURRENTLY MAINTAINING A LOW POSTURE , BUT WHOSE ORGANIZING ABILITIES CONTINUE TO COMMAND HIS HEALTHY RESPECT.

2. HE SAID HE HAS ORDERED TRIALS TO BE HELD AGAINST AQUINO AND OTHERS IN ORDER TO PROVE TO THE FILIPINO PUBLIC AND TO THE WORLD AT LARGE THAT THERE ACTUALLY WAS SOME REASON TO ARREST THESE MEN. HE WISHES TO BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY WERE GUILTY OF CRIMINAL ACTIONS AND HOPES TO OBTAIN CONVICTIONS.

3. HOWEVER, ONCE THEY ARE CONVICTED AND HE HAS MADE HIS POINT, HE HAS NO REASON TO WORK ANY VENGEANCE ON THEM. HE WILL PROBABLY PARDON MOST OF THEM, IF THEIR CRIMES WERE

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LARGELY POLITICAL AND INVOLVED SUCH MATTERS AS ILLEGAL

POSSESSION OF WEAPONS.

4. IN CASES WHERE ACTUAL FELONIES OCCURED, SUCH AS
MURDER, THERE MAY HAVE TO BE A PRISON TERM. BUT, ON THE
WHOLE, MARCOS SAYS HE BELIEVES HE HAS BROKEN THESE PEOPLE
AND WILL BE ABLE TO TURN THEM LOOSE WITH NO REAL DANGER
TO HIS REGIME.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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